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## Senate

(Legislative day of Wednesday, September 17, 2008)

The Senate met at 11 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God of compassion, You watch the ways of humanity and weave out of challenging happenings wonders of goodness and grace. Surround our lawmakers with Your presence on this critical day of decision. Lord, decisions made today will have far-reaching consequences, so more than human wisdom is needed. Thank You for being on Capitol Hill, providing the guidance our Senators so desperately need. Permit our lawmakers to hear Your unmistakable whisper, advising them regarding the road they must take. Give them a confident trust in Your leading as You work in everything for the good of those who love You.

Lord, transform our national challenges into opportunities for You to manifest Your sovereign power. We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JIM WEBB led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, September 29, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. WEBB thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following the remarks of the two leaders, we will proceed to a period of morning business until noon today. Senators are allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each, and the time will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

At noon, the Senate will consider the Amtrak and rail safety legislation. The Republican leader will control the time from 12 until 12:15, and I will control the time from 12:15 to 12:30. At 12:30, we will have a vote to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the rail safety legislation.

There will be a 1:30 Democratic caucus, and we are going to talk, of course, about the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act. So I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess from 1:30 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. while I conduct that conference.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 7060.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, one of the issues we have to address this morning—I have talked here on the floor and I have talked in press conferences about this—is how difficult it has been to get the energy and business tax extenders. It has been very difficult. We have had nine votes to get where we are—nine votes spread over a period of months. Finally, with the work of a number of Senators—principally Senators BAUCUS and GRASSLEY, and two other members of the Finance Committee, Senators CANTWELL and ENSIGN—we have worked to put together a package, and it is delicately put together.

I have tried to explain to my House colleagues how difficult it is for me to accept what they have sent us. They have broken this up and said: Hey, look, this is what we want, and you should take it.

Mr. President, I am going to ask unanimous consent now—they sent us one part of the thing we sent over to them, and that is the tax extenders, both the energy tax extenders and the business tax extenders in one package, and that is what I am going to ask consent about; that this matter I have just acknowledged, H.R. 7060, which is just as I have explained it—the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Tax Act is what they call it—which was received from the House, that the bill be read

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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